**High powered committee regarding wasteland reforms and land reforms**

383. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land found to be wasteland as on date and the percentage of such land *vis-a-vis* the total land;

(b) whether Government have constituted a high powered committee to invite suggestions regarding land reforms and wasteland development; and

(c) if so, the basis adopted for selection of the members of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) According to the Wastelands Atlas of India (2000) prepared by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) Hyderabad, there are 63.85 m.ha. of wasteland in the country. It constitutes 20.17% of the geographical area of the country.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Computerization of Tehsils in Orissa**

384. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has granted financial aid for computerization of 171 tehsils in Orissa, if so, amount of Central aid so sanctioned;

(b) whether Government propose to oversee the progress of works; and

(c) if so, the progress made so far and the time by when the records of all the tehsils in the State would be computerized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes sir. Government of India has given financial assistance of Rs. 498.60 lakh to Orissa State for procurement of software, hardware and other peripherals for 171 tehsils of the State.

(b) The monitoring of the Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records is being reviewed from time to time during the Conferences of Revenue Ministers/Secretaries impressing upon the States to take appropriate action for implementation of the Scheme of Computerization of Land Records in a time bound manner. The progress of the Scheme is also being monitored through Video-Conferencing so as to get direct interaction with the State Government and thorough Quarterly progress report in the prescribed proforma.

(c) As per the report submitted by the State Government, data entry work has been completed in 140 tehsils out of 171 and in the remaining tehsils it is under progress. Certified copies of Record of Rights (RoRs) are being issued to the public in 56 tehsils of the State.

**Pure drinking water for villages in Gujarat and Karnataka**

385. SHRI H.K. JAWARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the drinking of Saline Water in the rural parts of the country the people are suffering from Kidney Stones particularly in the Karnataka and Gujarat States;

(b) whether it is also a fact, that Salinity ingress has made ground water unfit for drinking in villages;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide pure drinking water to rural people in the country and the amount required therefor; and

(d) the amount sanctioned and released to the state of Karnataka for the post three years for providing drinking water to villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) As reported by State Government of Gujarat, the coastal areas where drinking water